



AUG.
NO. 149



12¢

BATMAN

*'INVADERS
FROM THE PAST!'*

GREAT SCOTT!
THOSE ANCIENT
WARRIORS ARE
PULLING **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN** INTO
THE TIME-SPACE
WARP WITH THEM!



THROW YOUR VOICE



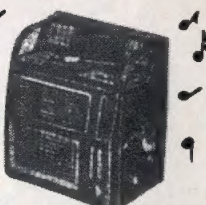
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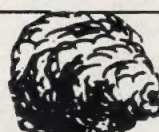
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HE WAS A STRANGE MAN, WITH A BRILLIANT AND TWISTED MIND, WHO VOWED THAT HIS MUSICAL MISDEEDS WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOREVER! AND IT LOOKED, FOR A WHILE, AS THOUGH **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WERE HELPLESS BEFORE THIS MASTER OF MELODY--UNTIL THEY COMPOSED A COUNTERPOINT TO THE MUSICAL THEME OF...



THE MAESTRO OF CRIME



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A TENSED FIGURE HUNCHES OVER THE FIRST MORNING PAPERS, ANGRILY GLARING AT THE NEWSPRINT.

THE FOOLS! WHAT DO *THEY* KNOW? I'LL SHOW *THEM*! MY NAME WILL LIVE IN THE ANNALS OF MUSIC WHEN THESE NEWSPAPERS HAVE CRUMBLD TO DUST!



TIME PASSES, AND A STRANGE SCHEME EVOLVES IN THE TWISTED, BRILLIANT MIND OF A MAN WHO CANNOT STAND FAILURE!

AT LAST I'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED! I'LL MAKE MY MUSICAL PERFORMANCES MORE FAMOUS THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER VIRTUOSO!



SOME DAYS LATER, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON (THE SECRET IDENTITIES OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**), ATTEND A CONCERT FOR THE GOTHAM CITY BOYS' CLUB...

QUITE A TUNE, EH?



YOU THERE! GET OUT!

WHO'S THAT GROTESQUELY COSTUMED, MASKED MAN? HE'S NOT ON THE PROGRAM! AND WHAT KIND OF TUNE IS HE PLAYING?

THE GARISH FIGURE OBEDIENTLY SCURRIES AWAY, BUT THAT EVENING IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

WHEW! LOOK AT THIS NOTE I JUST RECEIVED! SET OFF THE **BAT-SIGNAL**! I WANT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HERE AT ONCE!



PRESENTLY...

HE MUST BE A FANATICAL EGOIST TRYING TO PROVE HOW CLEVER HE IS! IF WE COULD ONLY FIND SOMEONE WHO KNEW WHAT HE WAS PLAYING!

APPEAL TO EVERY-ONE IN THE CITY, BY RADIO AND TELE-VISION! ONE MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE MAY HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT ZANY TUNE!



AFTER REPEATED APPEALS, A MEAK, SHY
FIGURE SHAMBLES INTO HEADQUARTERS
NEXT MORNING, AND...

I AM PROFESSOR OF MUSICOLOGY AMBROSE
WEEMS, GENTLEMEN, AUTHOR OF AN
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MUSIC! I WAS
PRESENT AT YESTERDAY'S LITTLE
CONCERT AND CAN WELL UNDERSTAND
YOUR DIFFICULTY IN FINDING
ANYONE
FAMILIAR
WITH THAT
TUNE!

DO YOU
KNOW?

CERTAINLY! IT WAS CONFUSING
BECAUSE IT WAS **TWO PIECES**--
THE **JEWEL SONG** FROM
FAUST, AND AN ARIA FROM
**THROUGH THE LOOKING
GLASS**, MIXED TOGETHER!

**JEWEL
SONG...
LOOKING
GLASS!**

A STRANGE
COMBINATION--
BUT THERE'S
ONE PLACE IT
MIGHT DESCRIBE!

THE **GEM** EXHIBIT IN THE
PALACE OF GLASS AT
THE EDGE OF TOWN!
I THINK WE COULD USE YOU,
PROF. WEEMS--IN DISGUISE--
BECAUSE I WOULDN'T WANT
THE MAESTRO TO KNOW
WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

M-ME? AS PART
OF YOUR
TEAM?
BY ALL
MEANS--
YES!

SO, SHORTLY AFTERWARD FOLLOWING A BRIEF STOP
AT A COSTUME SHOP...

AAAH--THE SPARROW--SUITS
MY PERSONALITY PERFECTLY,
BATMAN-- BUT WHATEVER
TUNE THE MAESTRO CHIRPS,
YOU CAN BE SURE, I'LL
UNDERSTAND IT!

IT MAY NOT BE
NECESSARY,
IF WE CAPTURE
HIM! BUT WE'LL
SEE THAT NO
HARM COMES
TO YOU, SIR!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PALACE OF GLASS...

THOSE STRANGELY COSTUMED
MEN IN PLASTIC ARMOR--
AND THEIR WEIRD LEADER!
WHAT DO **THEY** WANT?

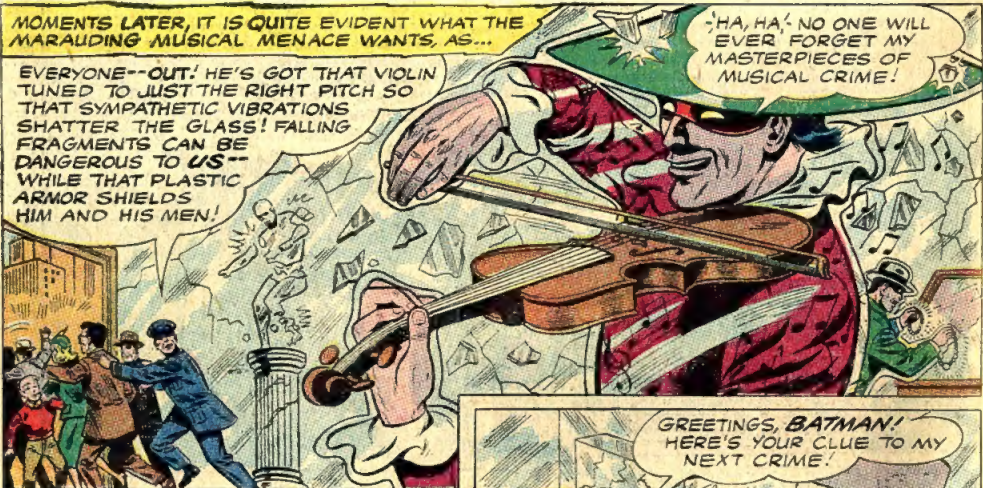
PALACE OF GLASS

**GEM
EXHIBIT
TODAY**
PALACE OF
GLASS
CONSTRUCTED
BY GUILD OF
GLASS BUNNIES

MOMENTS LATER, IT IS QUITE EVIDENT WHAT THE MAURAUDING MUSICAL MENACE WANTS, AS...

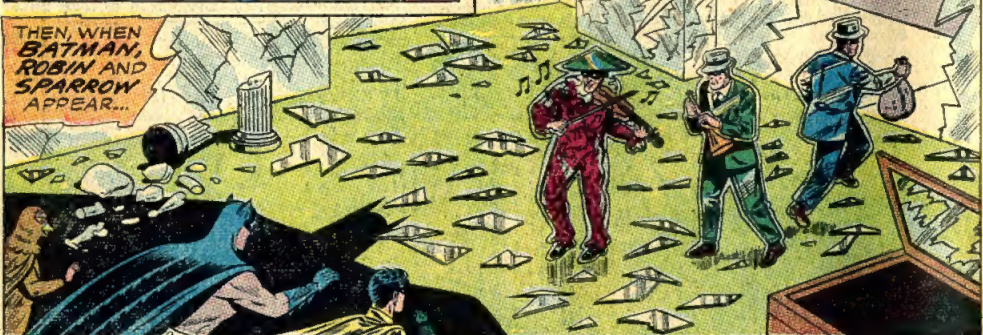
EVERYONE--OUT! HE'S GOT THAT VIOLIN TUNED TO JUST THE RIGHT PITCH SO THAT SYMPATHETIC VIBRATIONS SHATTER THE GLASS! FALLING FRAGMENTS CAN BE DANGEROUS TO US--WHILE THAT PLASTIC ARMOR SHIELDS HIM AND HIS MEN!

"HA, HA!" NO ONE WILL EVER FORGET MY MASTERPIECES OF MUSICAL CRIME!



GREETINGS, BATMAN! HERE'S YOUR CLUE TO MY NEXT CRIME!

THEN, WHEN BATMAN, ROBIN AND SPARROW APPEAR...



THEN, SNATCHING A HORN FROM ONE OF HIS MEN...

"HA, HA!" THE MAESTRO GIMMICKED THAT HORN, AND IT'S SO LOUD, IT CAN BLAST THEIR EARDRUMS APART! WE GOT PLUGS IN OUR EARS... BUT THEY BETTER SCRAM FAST, OR ELSE!

OWW! MY EARS!



LATER, AFTER THE MAESTRO'S GETAWAY...

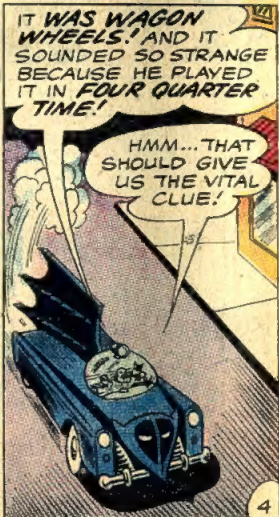
HE USES MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRICKS TO COMMIT CRIMES AND ESCAPE--AND TO TAUNT US WITH MUSICAL CLUES!

THE ONE HE JUST PLAYED SOUNDED LIKE "WAGON WHEELS," BUT IT SEEMED STRANGE!



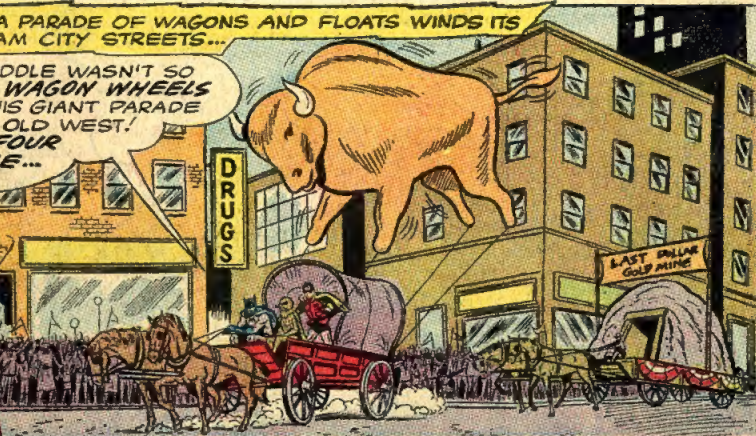
IT WAS WAGON WHEELS! AND IT SOUNDED SO STRANGE BECAUSE HE PLAYED IT IN FOUR QUARTER TIME!

HMM... THAT SHOULD GIVE US THE VITAL CLUE!



HOURS LATER, AS A PARADE OF WAGONS AND FLOATS WINDS ITS WAY DOWN GOTHAM CITY STREETS...

THAT RHYTHMIC RIDDLE WASN'T SO HARD! I FIGURED **WAGON WHEELS** REFERRED TO THIS GIANT PARADE IN HONOR OF THE OLD WEST. HE PLAYED IT IN **FOUR QUARTER TIME**...



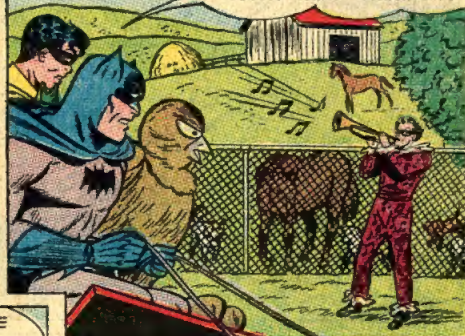
...TO REPRESENT THE **LAST DOLLAR MINE**-- SINCE FOUR **QUARTERS** IS A DOLLAR! AND THAT FLOAT HAS REAL GOLD ORE ON DISPLAY!

LAST DOLLAR GOLD MINE



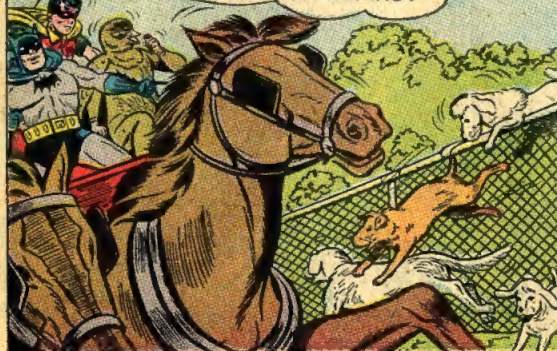
SOMEWHAT LATER, AS THE FLOAT PASSES A REFUGE FOR RETIRED CIRCUS ANIMALS...

THE MAESTRO! WHAT DOES HE EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THAT TRUMPET?



SUDDENLY...

GREAT SCOTT! THAT MUST BE THE TUNE THAT SUMMONED THEM INTO THE ARENA WHEN THEY PERFORMED IN THE CIRCUS! OUR HORSES ARE PANICKING!

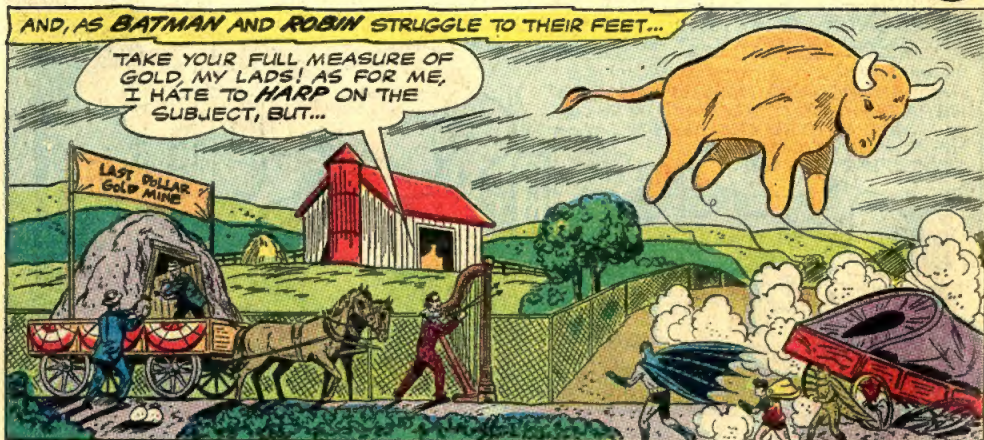


HANG ON!



AND, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STRUGGLE TO THEIR FEET...

TAKE YOUR FULL MEASURE OF GOLD, MY LADS! AS FOR ME, I HATE TO HARP ON THE SUBJECT, BUT...



... I MUST TAKE A **BOW** FOR USING THESE STRINGS AS BOWS!



A MOMENT LATER...

AND HERE'S THE MUSICAL CLUE TO MY NEXT CRIME, TO BE COMMITTED **TOMORROW!**

HONK HONK



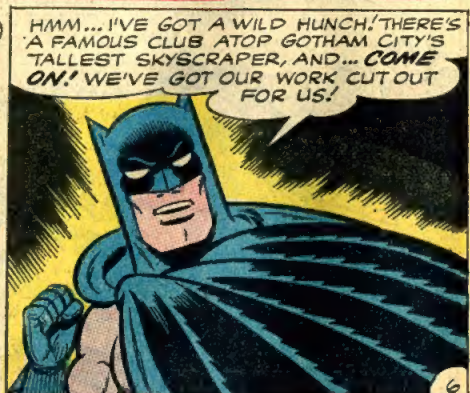
SO, ONCE AGAIN, THE SLIPPERY HOOLIGAN OF HARMONY ELUDES **BATMAN**, AND...

THAT'S STRANGE! THIS TIME HE DIDN'T GIVE US A **MUSICAL** CLUE!

YOU'RE WRONG, **ROBIN!** SEVERAL COMPOSERS HAVE EMPLOYED THE AUTOMOBILE HORN AS AN INSTRUMENT IN MODERN MUSIC! CARPENTER, IN **SKYSCRAPERS**, AND GERSHWIN IN **AMERICAN IN PARIS**...



HMM... I'VE GOT A WILD HUNCH! THERE'S A FAMOUS CLUB ATOP GOTHAM CITY'S TALLEST SKYSCRAPER, AND... **COME ON!** WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!





BATMAN



THAT EVENING, AS MADAME ROUSSELLE, FAMOUS SOPRANO, PREPARES TO SING IN THE SKYTOP CLUB...



I CAN'T STAND YOUR VOICE! I CAME FOR THAT FABULOUS NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARING!



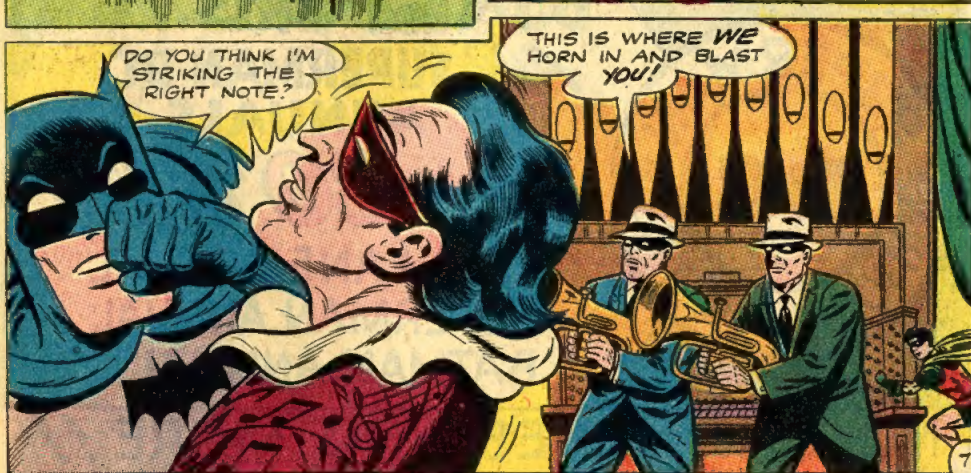
SUDDENLY...

BEWARE THE **BATMAN** IN-THE-BOX!



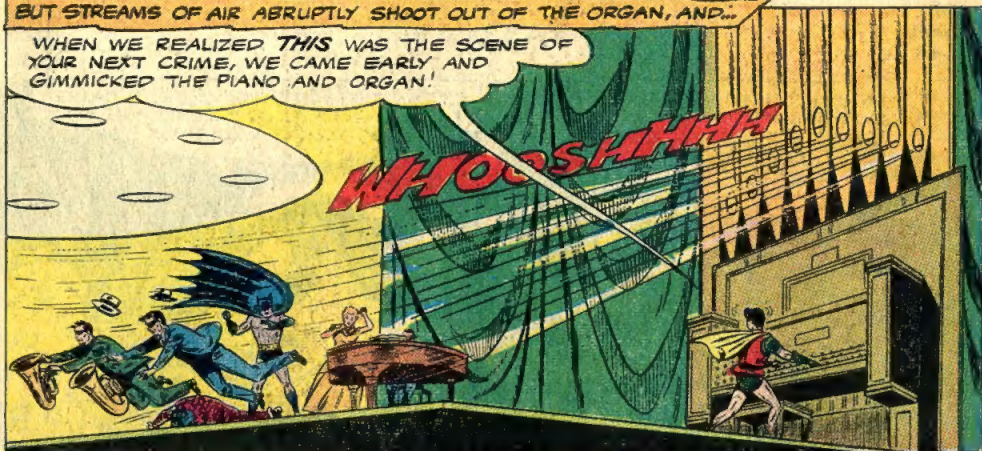
DO YOU THINK I'M STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE?

THIS IS WHERE **WE** HORN IN AND BLAST YOU!



BUT STREAMS OF AIR ABRUPTLY SHOOT OUT OF THE ORGAN, AND...

WHEN WE REALIZED *THIS* WAS THE SCENE OF YOUR NEXT CRIME, WE CAME EARLY AND GIMMICKED THE PIANO AND ORGAN!



AS COMMISSIONER GORDON AND HIS MEN PICK UP THE MUSICAL MISCREANTS...

YOUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT, *BATMAN!* THERE WAS NO AMERICAN IN PARIS ON THIS SKYSCRAPER, BUT THERE WAS A *PARISIAN*, MADAME POUSSELLE, IN AMERICA!



8

LATER...

YOU'RE A DOUBLE FAILURE, CARDINE--AS A MUSICIAN AND AS A CROOK! INSTEAD OF MUSICAL BARS, YOU'LL BE LOOKING AT *STEEL* BARS FOR A LONG TIME!



The End



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BATMAN and ROBIN'S

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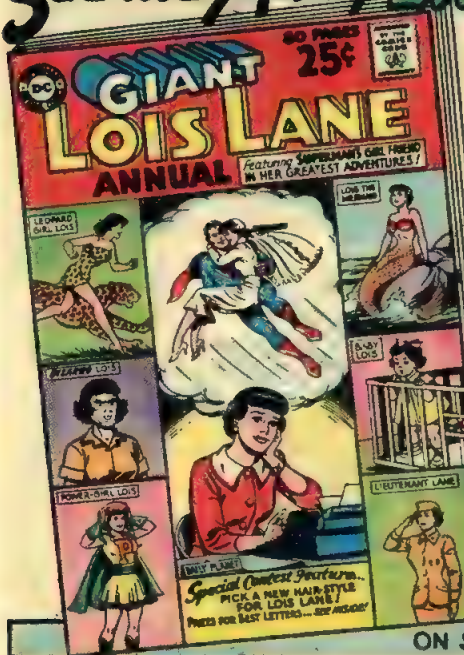
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BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

*BIZARRE BOOTY SNATCHED BY VISITORS FROM DAYS LONG PAST... A PROFESSOR WHO FEARS THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS HAVE CAUSED BREACHES IN THE SPACE-TIME BARRIER... **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** PULLED INTO THE MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN BEHIND THE SHIMMERING DOOR OF LIGHT! THESE ARE THE INGREDIENTS COMPRISING THE STRANGE CASE OF...*

the INVADERS from the PAST

GREAT SCOTT!
THOSE ANCIENT WARRIORS
ARE PULLING **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN** INTO THE
TIME-SPACE WARP
WITH THEM!



BOB
KALE



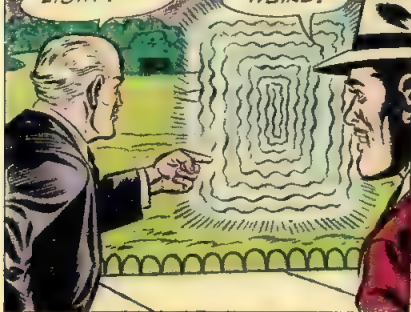
BATMAN



ONE EVENING, AT THE EDGE OF GOTHAM CITY PARK, AS DUSK BLURS THE FADING CITY LIGHT...

WH-WHATS THAT STRANGE LIGHT?

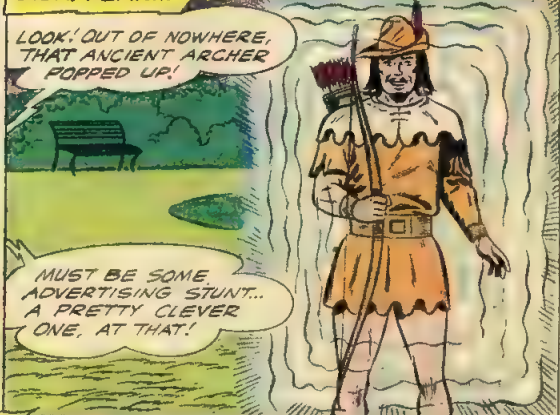
I DON'T KNOW--BUT IT SURE LOOKS WEIRD!



THEN, AS THE EERIE GLIMMER DIMS AND BEGINS TO DISAPPEAR...

LOOK! OUT OF NOWHERE, THAT ANCIENT ARCHER POPPED UP!

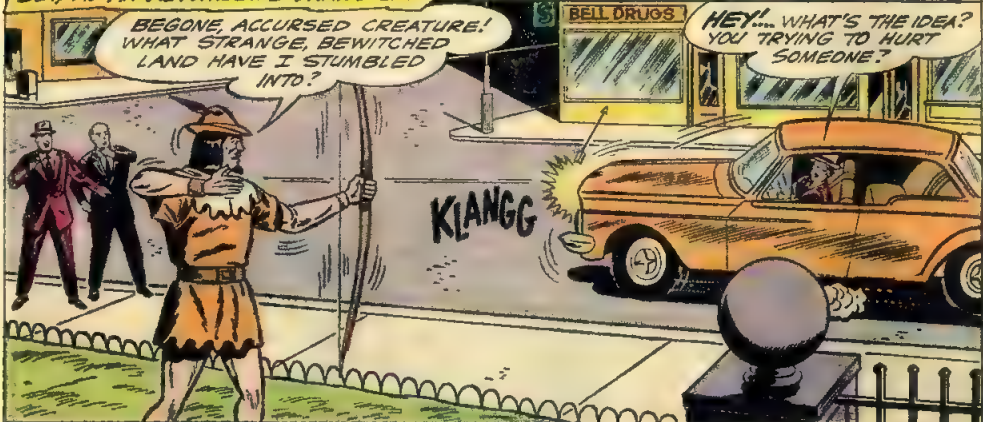
MUST BE SOME ADVERTISING STUNT... A PRETTY CLEVER ONE, AT THAT!



BUT, AS AN AUTOMOBILE DRAWS UP...

BEGONE, ACCURSED CREATURE! WHAT STRANGE, BEWITCHED LAND HAVE I STUMBLED INTO?

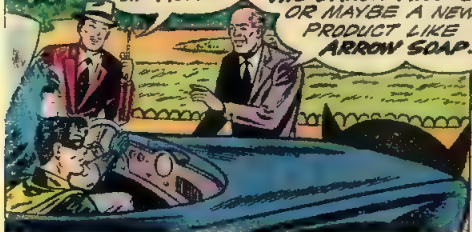
HEY!... WHAT'S THE IDEA? YOU TRYING TO HURT SOMEONE?



A SHORT WHILE LATER, WHEN A ROUTINE POLICE REPORT DRAWS BATMAN AND ROBIN TO THE SCENE...

...THEN HE TOOK TO HIS HEELS LIKE A SCARED RABBIT, AND DISAPPEARED BEHIND THAT STRANGE GLIMMER THAT SHOT UP AGAIN!

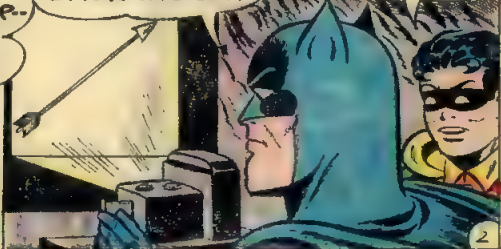
BUT DON'T WORRY, BATMAN... THIS ISN'T A CASE FOR YOU! TOMORROW, THEY'LL ANNOUNCE SOME KIND OF MOVIE, LIKE THE SAXON ARCHER--OR MAYBE A NEW PRODUCT LIKE ARROW SOAP!



AFTERWARD, HOWEVER, IN THE SECRECY OF THE BAT-CAVE CRIME LAB...

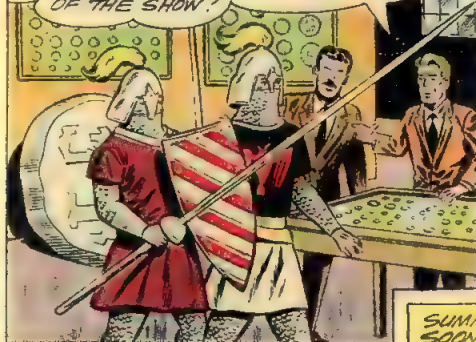
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, ROBIN... THIS IS A GENUINE ARROW FROM THE 12TH CENTURY! AS FOR THAT WEIRD LIGHT THEY DESCRIBED, IT'S AN UTTER MYSTERY!

THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF SOME-THING... BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT.



YOU HAVEN'T LONG TO WONDER, **ROBIN**—FOR THE VERY NEXT DAY, AT AN EXHIBIT OF RARE AND ANCIENT COINS...

HEY!... DIG THAT DUD IN THE CRAZY ARMOR! HA, HA! ARE THEY PART OF THE SHOW?



IN THE NAME OF OUR LIEGE, THE EARL OF GODWIN, WE LAY LEGAL CLAIM TO ALL THE MONIES HERE! TAKE THE **GOLDEN COINS**, SIR HUBERT... THEY SHOULD MAKE A GODDLY SUM!

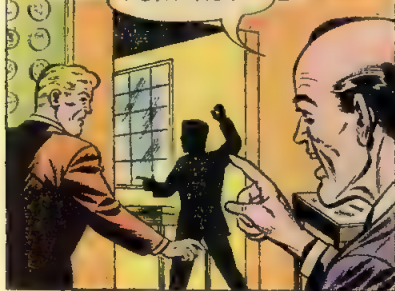
HUN??



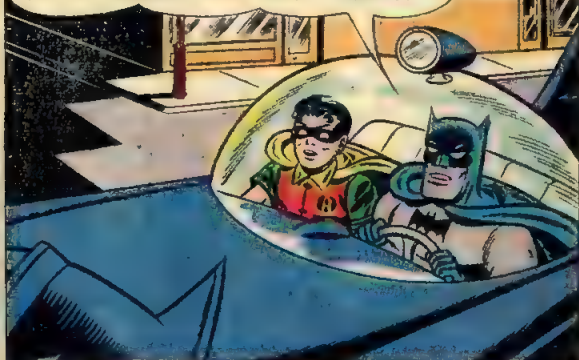
SUMMONED BY THE ALARM, **BATMAN AND ROBIN** SOON PICK UP THE BANDITS' TRAIL...

MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE ARMORED BRIGANDS HAVE FLED...

QUICK-- SOUND THE ALARM! THEY GOT AWAY WITH A FORTUNE!

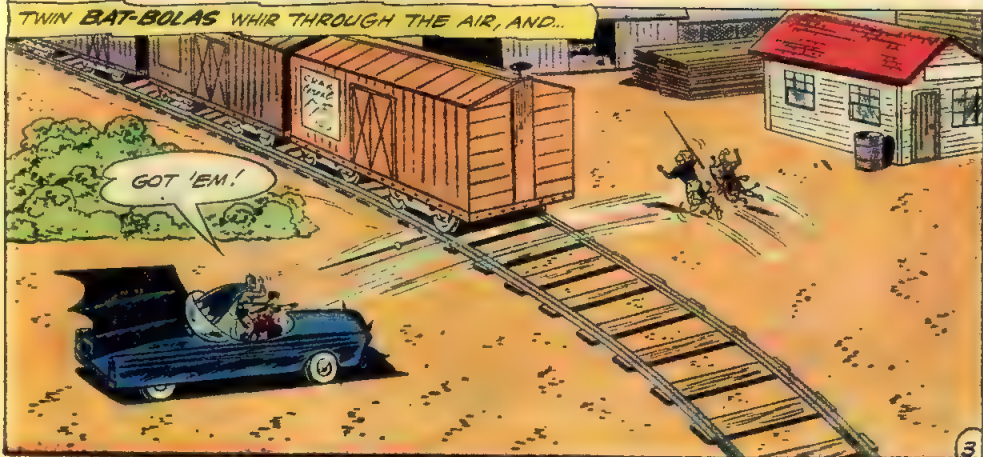


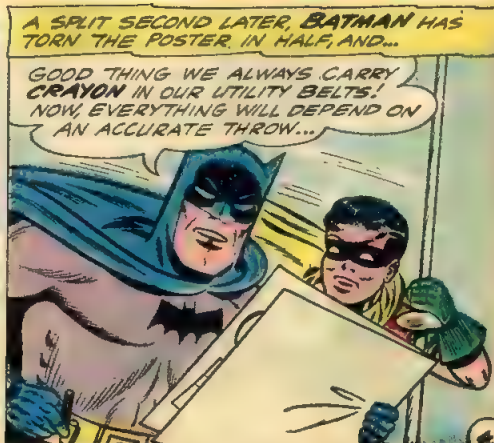
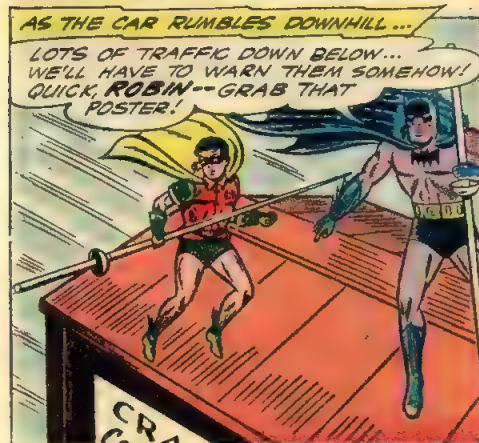
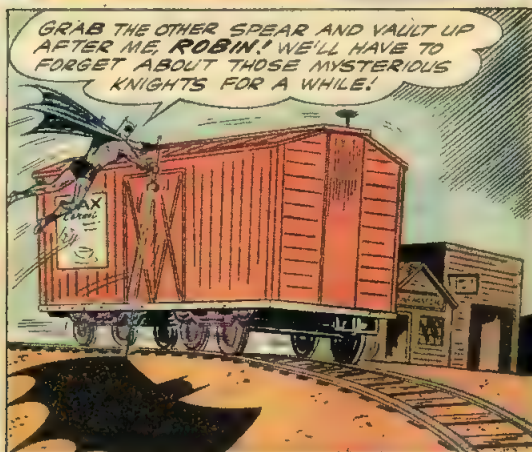
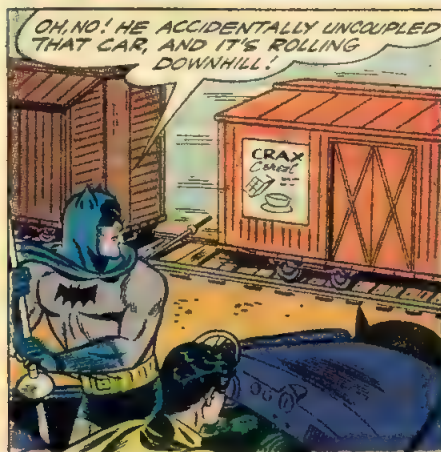
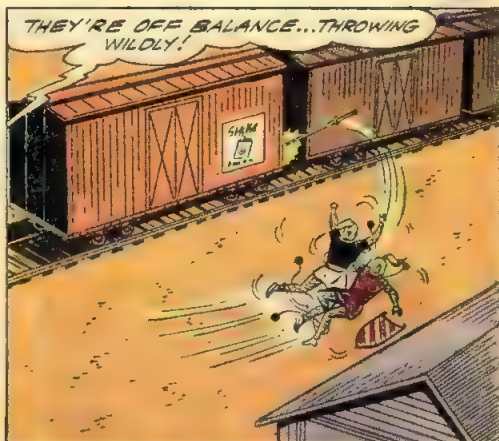
THEY'RE CROSSING THOSE RAILROAD TRACKS! QUICK, **ROBIN**, YOUR **BAT-BOLA**!

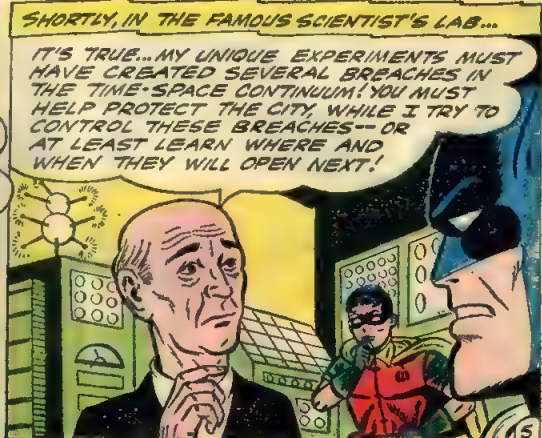
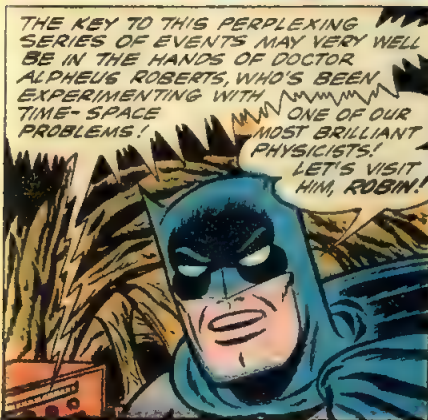
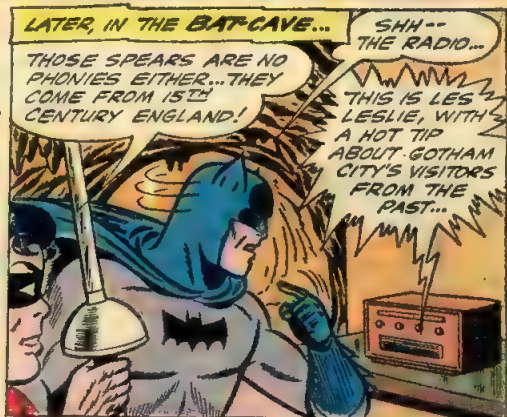
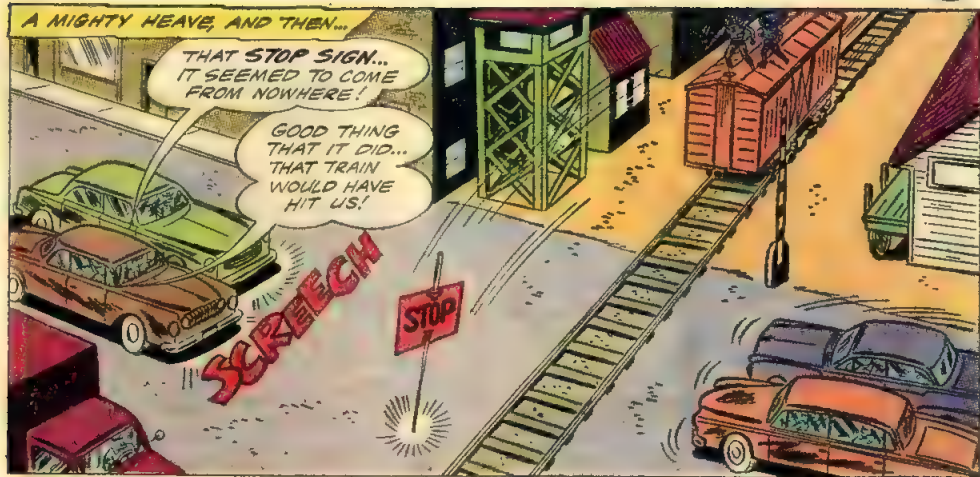


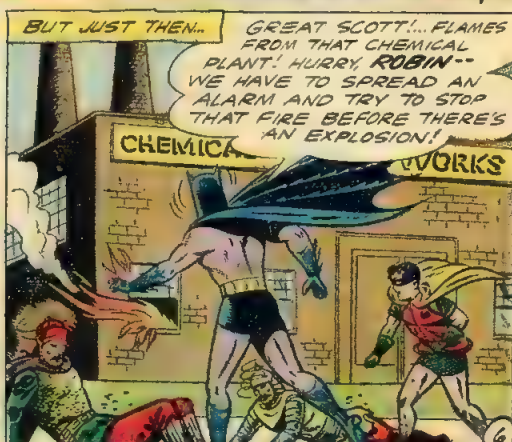
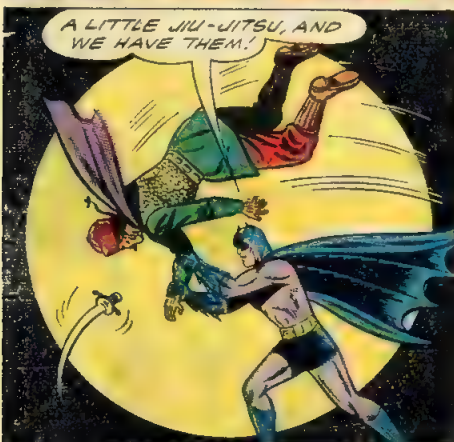
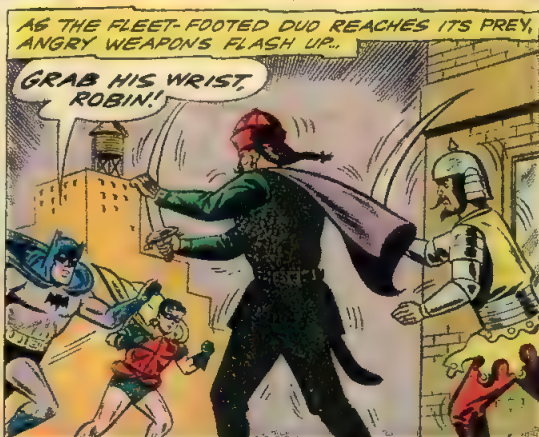
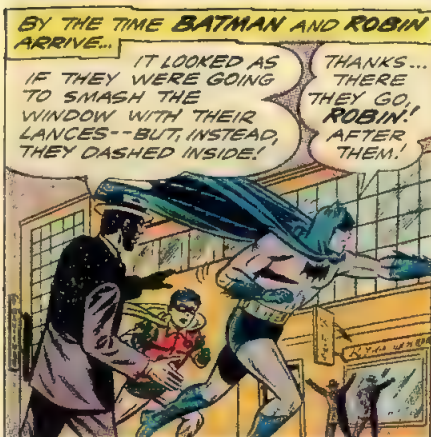
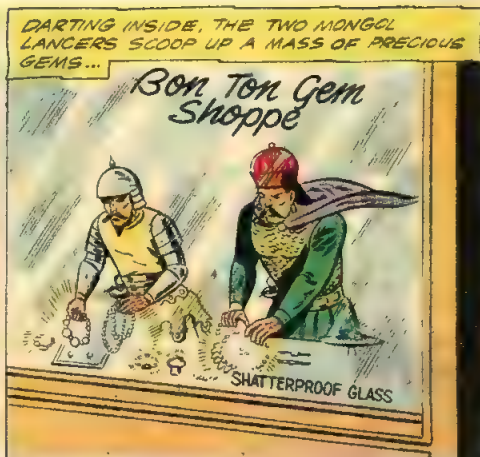
TWIN **BAT-BOLAS** WHIR THROUGH THE AIR, AND...

GOT 'EM!









AFTER QUENCHING THE FLAMES, BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN HEAR THE STORY OF A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE...

THEY ROUNDED THAT CORNER, AND VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! THEY MUST HAVE FOUND ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE HOLES INTO THE PAST!



AND ONLY A FEW HOURS LATER, AS THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS PATROL THE CITY...

BATMAN! ROBIN! LOOK THERE! ANOTHER OPENING FROM THE PAST!

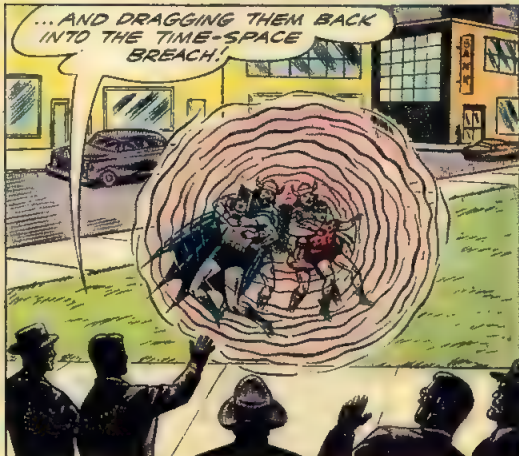


AS THE PAIR STEPS WARILY FORWARD...

THEY'RE GRABBING BATMAN AND ROBIN...



...AND DRAGGING THEM BACK INTO THE TIME-SPACE BREACH!



THAT NIGHT, IN THE HIDEOUT OF BEN RIDER AND SLICK RONSON, INTERNATIONAL GEM THIEVES...

HAWK! GET A LOAD OF THAT HEADLINE, RONSON

HERE WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THOSE HOLES INTO THE PAST ARE REAL-- AND THEY ACTUALLY ARE REAL!



WE SURE MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING! WE PLANNED OUR GETAWAYS PERFECTLY--FIXING THAT RAILROAD CAR SO THE LEAST SHOCK WOULD BREAK IT LOOSE, AND THROWING THAT FLAME PELLET INTO THE CHEMICAL COMPANY!

YEAH... AND LEAVING BEHIND THOSE GENUINE WEAPONS WE COLLECTED IN EUROPE WAS A POSITIVE STROKE OF GENIUS!

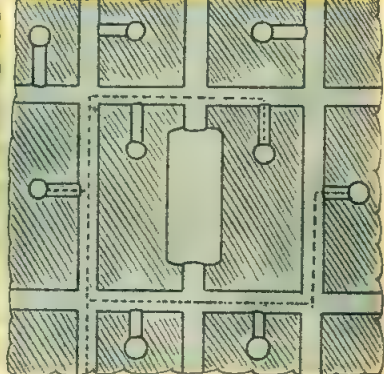


WHAT? ARE THESE MEN BEHIND THE STRANGE CRIMES FROM THE PAST? JUST LISTEN, AS THEY GLOAT...

"THE BEST PART, THOUGH, WAS THOSE PHONY BREACHES INTO THE PAST..."

THOSE BRASS PIPES, BURNING GAS, SURE LOOK EERIE FROM A DISTANCE! WHEN I PRESS A BUTTON, A HIDDEN MECHANISM WILL TURN OFF THE GAS AND SINK THE PIPES BACK INTO THE GROUND! THEN I'LL STEP FORWARD!

"THE MAP WE GOT OF THAT ABANDONED UNDERGROUND RESERVOIR AND WATER SYSTEM SURE HELPED US LOCATE SPOTS WE COULD 'DISAPPEAR' INTO!"



BUT TIPPING OFF THAT RADIO COMMENTATOR ABOUT DOC ROBERTS WAS THE CLINCHER! WHEN THE DOC SAID THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, EVERYONE WAS SURE THE HOLES INTO THE PAST WERE REAL!

YEAH... THAT WAS A REAL WIND-FALL, THE NIGHT WE BROKE INTO THE DOC'S LAB!



"WE PLANNED TO ROB THE PLACE... BUT, WHEN WE OVERHEARD HIM TALKING TO A FRIEND..."

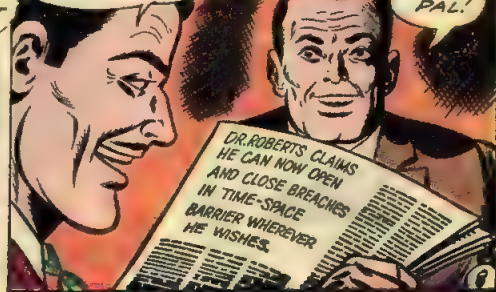
THEN, AS THE PAIR CONTINUES TO READ ABOUT BATMAN AND ROBIN...

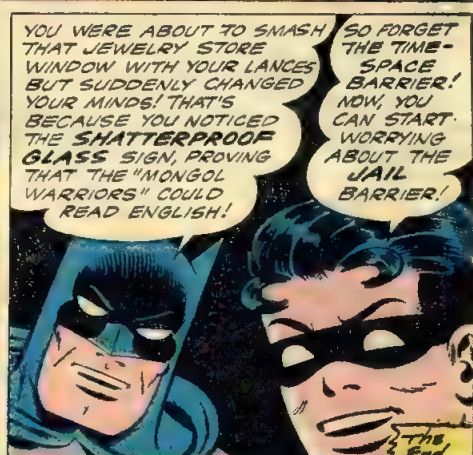
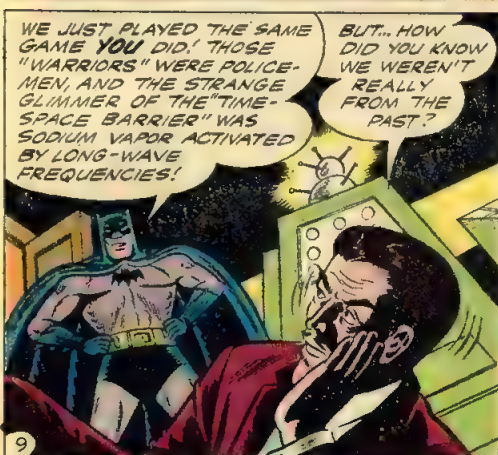
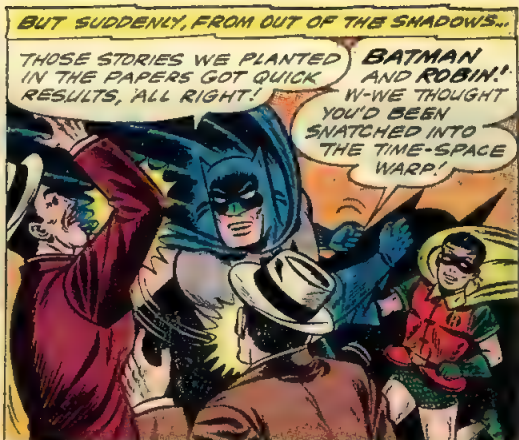
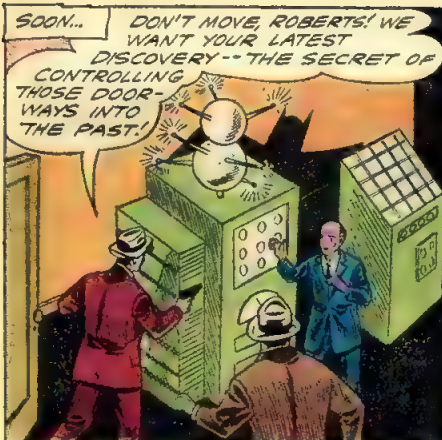
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I'M AFRAID OF... MY EXPERIMENTS MAY OPEN RANDOM HOLES INTO THE CURTAIN THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE PAST!

WHAT AN IDEA THAT GIVES ME! IF WE PRETEND WE'RE FROM THE PAST, WE CAN PEDdle WHAT WE STEAL EASILY, BECAUSE THE COPS WON'T BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR LOOT!

BUT LOOK AT THIS! IF WE FIND OUT HOW TO CONTROL THOSE BREACHES, WE CAN GO INTO THE PAST AND GET ALL KINDS OF LOOT TO SELL HERE! COPS FROM THE PAST WILL NEVER GET ON OUR TRAILS!

YEAH... LET'S GO, PAL!





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Dear Editor: BATMAN's friend, Professor Nichols, is able to send him and ROBIN back into the past, where they have some of their most exciting adventures. How come Professor Nichols keeps his amazing time machine such a deep, dark secret, known only to the crime-fighters? He could become a millionaire if he patented that invention.

Ervin Blake, Grand Rapids, Mich.

(Professor Nichols is first and foremost a scientist. He does not believe man is yet ready for time travel. Thus far, he has limited the use of his invention to BATMAN and ROBIN and his close friends, Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Is it true that a sunburn once helped BATMAN nab a criminal? Sounds novel—perhaps you could fill me in on the details.

Murray King, Topeka, Kans.

(You're probably referring to a case in which BATMAN was interrogating a number of underworld characters suspected of driving the getaway car after a bold daylight robbery. One of them claimed that he'd been home, sleeping in bed, during the hours of the crime. It was then that BATMAN noticed a new sunburn on this suspect's left arm—the arm which drivers usually rest on the window while riding. The rest of his body was untouched by the sun. Since the robbery had occurred only a few hours earlier, that sunburn clue proved the man was lying, and led BATMAN to track down the evidence that brought him to justice.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: BATMAN, ROBIN and SUPERMAN have locked horns with weird wizards from all parts of our world. How about a story in which they meet somebody like that from another world?

Ludwig Krause, Birmingham, Ala.

(Coming up! You'll be meeting a fantastic character like that—"THE SORCERER FROM THE STARS"—in the AUGUST issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 127.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: How come BATMAN and ROBIN don't wear bullet-proof vests?

Vera Lang, Binghamton, N.Y.

(Bullet-proof vests, while affording one form of protection, would hinder the crime-fighters in other ways. One of BATMAN and ROBIN's greatest weapons is their agility, which would be impeded by such a bulky garment.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Whenever BATMAN or ROBIN use a BATARANG or one of their other large weapons, I can't help wondering where they carry this equipment. You never see it on them until the moment they produce it.

Rod Benson, Racine, Wis.

(Most of the crime-fighters' portable equipment is collapsible—able to be folded or taken apart into units small enough to fit into their utility belts or cape pouches.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I'm sure there are times when BATMAN and ROBIN, in their everyday identities of Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson, have to transmit crime-fighting information to each other, without arousing the suspicion of other people around them. Do they have some special way of doing this?

Truman Fitch, Tombstone, Ariz.

(BATMAN and ROBIN, on such occasions, use a secret code which sounds like ordinary conversation to the average person. Similarly, they use special hand signs and facial expressions that appear normal and meaningless to the untrained eye.—Ed.)

Dear Reader: In our last "LETTERS TO THE BAT-CAVE," we promised you the story "ROBIN, THE SUPER BOY WONDER" in this issue of BATMAN COMICS. Unfortunately, certain difficulties forced us to re-schedule this adventure for our next issue (SEPTEMBER, No. 150). We trust you will understand, and—once again—we're sorry.

Sincerely,
The Editor

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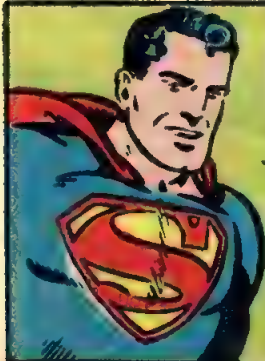
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APPEARS IN *ALL*
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ISSUES

HOMER

AH, NO ONE ON THE
GOLF COURSE BUT ME.
LAST TIME I WAS HERE
I GOT CLOBBERED
BY A BALL!

WHAT A
DRIVE!

POW

HOMER - YOU
CAN'T WIN!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

IMAGINE YOURSELF SUDDENLY DEVELOPING THE POWER TO READ A CRIMINAL'S MIND! WHAT WOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU SUDDENLY HEARD HIM PLOTTING THE PERFECT CRIME? HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT STOPPING HIM, IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIS IDENTITY? PERHAPS YOU'LL COME UP WITH THE ANSWER WHEN YOU'VE SEEN HOW...

BATMAN TUNES IN ON MURDER

HOW DID
BATMAN KNOW
WE WERE HERE?

IF THEY ONLY
KNEW...I READ
THE MIND OF
THE UNKNOWN
MURDERER
WHO SENT
THEM!

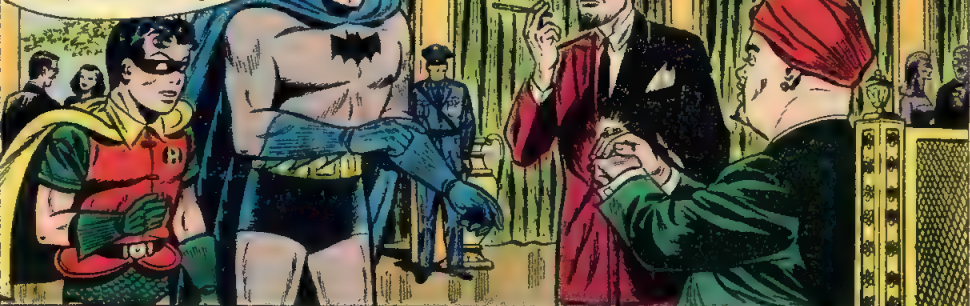
BOB
KALE



ONE DAY, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** JOIN OTHER GOTHAM CITY CELEBRITIES AT A RECEPTION IN THE RAJAH'S EMBASSY...

THAT'S AN INTERESTING RING, RAJAH! I'M QUITE AN EXPERT ON GEMS, AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE QUITE LIKE IT!

PLEASE... TO SLOWLY... SPEAK?

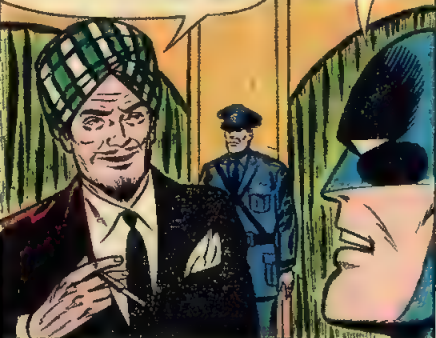


THE RAJAH DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH WELL, **BATMAN**... LET ME ACT AS INTERPRETER!

THANK YOU, AMBASSADOR FLETHI!

A HALF SERIOUS, HALF MOCKING SMILE LIGHTS THE RAJAH'S FACE AS **BATMAN**'S QUESTION IS TRANSLATED-- AND THEN...

HIS HIGHNESS SAYS THERE IS NO STONE LIKE THAT IN THE WHOLE WORLD! HIDDEN IN ITS DEPTHS ARE MANY MYSTERIES... ITS RAYS ARE RUMORED TO CONFER OCCULT POWERS ON THOSE WHOM THEY STRIKE!

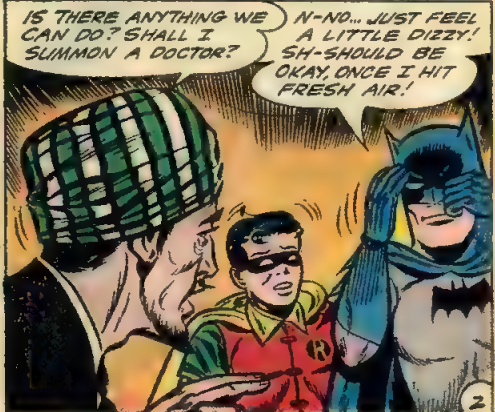
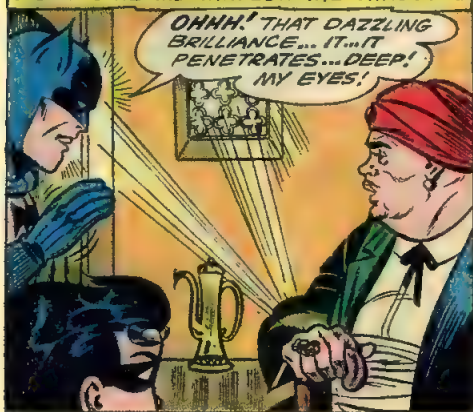


SUDDENLY, AS A PIERCING SHAFT OF SUN-LIGHT STREAMS THROUGH THE WINDOWS...

OHNN! THAT DAZZLING BRILLIANCE... IT... IT PENETRATES... DEEP! MY EYES!

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO? SHALL I SUMMON A DOCTOR?

N-NO... JUST FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY! SH-SHOULD BE OKAY, ONCE I HIT FRESH AIR!



UPON LEAVING THE EMBASSY...

MY HEAD'S CLEARING UP NOW...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A MOMENT! THAT CERTAINLY WAS A STRANGE SHAFT OF SUNLIGHT! SOME UNIQUE SOLAR DISTURBANCE MUST HAVE CAUSED IT!



SUDDENLY, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER STANDS STOCK STILL, AS...

WHAT--? I--I SEEM TO BE GETTING A MESSAGE FROM SOMEWHERE... FROM SOMEONE'S MIND!

WE--RD OF--BR FOREVER--FIRST NEED--AT--RAY--PERFECT AT--MURDER--THREE



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! I'M TUNED IN TO SOMEONE'S THOUGHTS--THE THOUGHTS OF AN UTTER STRANGER, A MURDERER! I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, OR WHERE HE IS...ALL I GOT WERE FRAGMENTS OF HIS IDEAS!

GOLLY!...COULD THAT RING THAT REALLY HAVE GIVEN YOU OCCULT POWERS?



MAYBE IT DID, WHEN COMBINED WITH THAT FREAK RAY OF SUNLIGHT! SHHH... LET'S SEE IF I GET MORE!



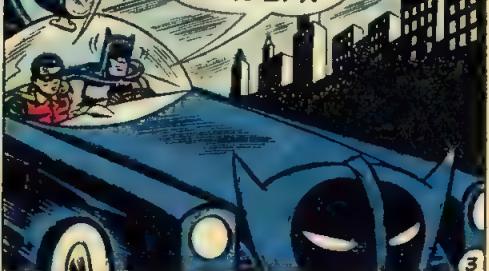
BUT, AS THE MINUTES PASS...

I GUESS IT WAS JUST ONE STRAY FLASH... WE'LL HAVE TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT A CLUE FROM THE MESSAGE I DID GET. HMM... HE'S PLANNING TO GET SOMETHING SOMEWHERE! "FIRST NEED... AT RAY... BIT!" WHAT COULD THAT MEAN?

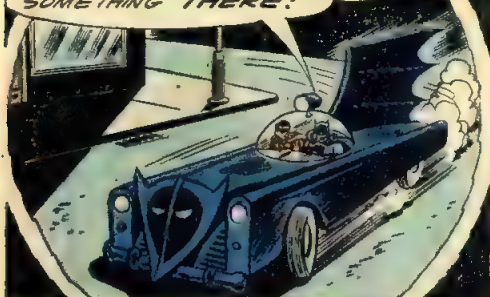


IT COULD BE SOMEONE'S NAME... RAY NESBIT... OR BABBIT!

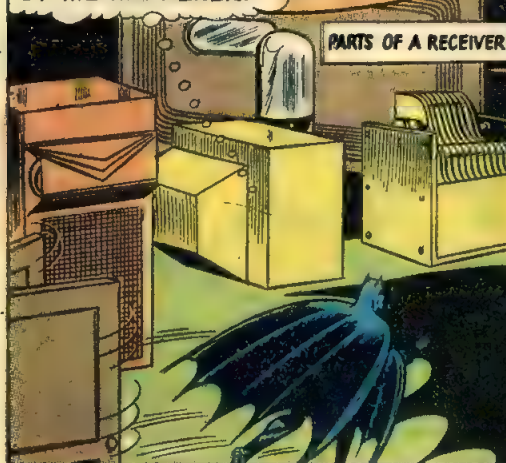
YES--BUT IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE HOPELESS. TOO MANY NAMES WITH THOSE LETTERS! IT COULD ALSO BE X-RAY EXHIBIT, OR-- WAIT!... I'M GETTING AN IDEA!



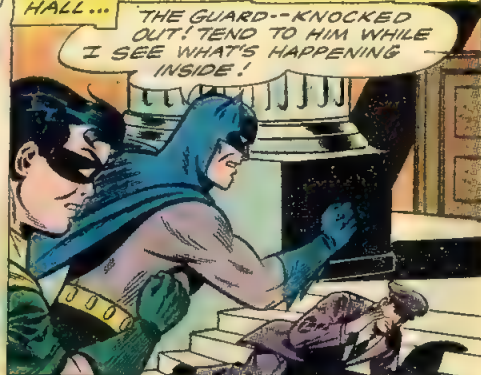
SUPPOSE HE MEANT RADIO EXHIBIT... I HEARD "RAY... BIT." THE SHOW IS OPENING TOMORROW, BUT IT'S ALL SET UP TODAY! MAYBE HE NEEDS SOMETHING THERE!



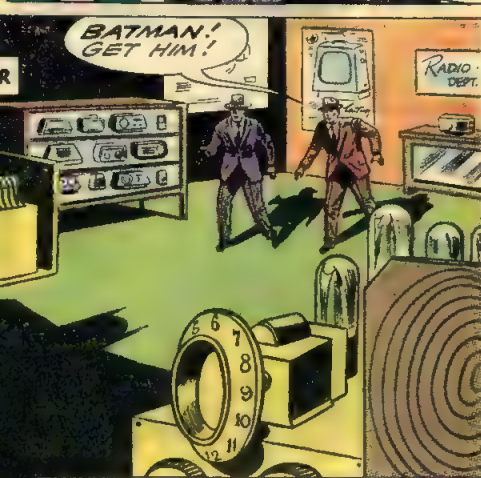
TWO CROOKS--MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE MURDERER!



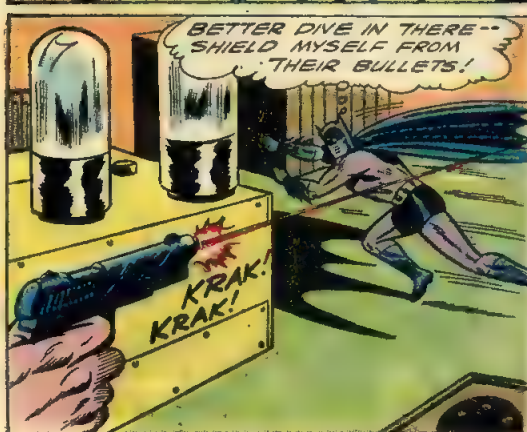
SURE ENOUGH, AS THE BATMOBILE GOES STREAKING TO THE EXHIBIT HALL...



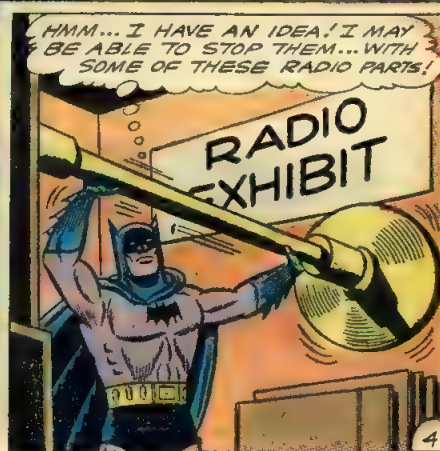
BATMAN! GET HIM!



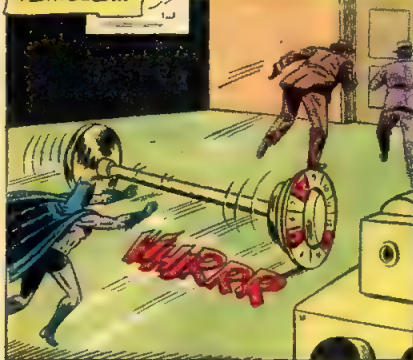
BETTER DIVE IN THERE--SHIELD MYSELF FROM THEIR BULLETS!



HMM... I HAVE AN IDEA! I MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THEM... WITH SOME OF THESE RADIO PARTS!



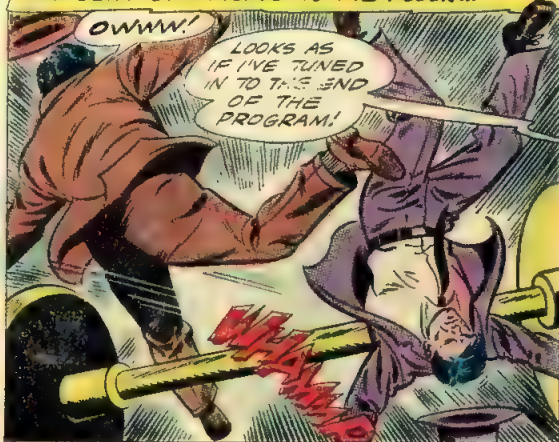
SPEEDILY ASSEMBLING THE GIANT COMPONENTS, BATMAN LAUNCHES A STRANGE TWO-WHEELED VEHICLE...



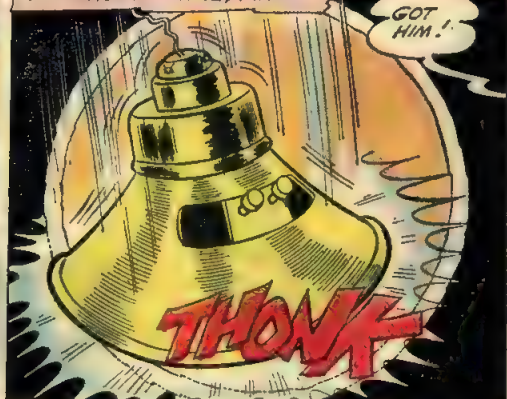
BUT AS BATMAN SCRAMBLES FORWARD...



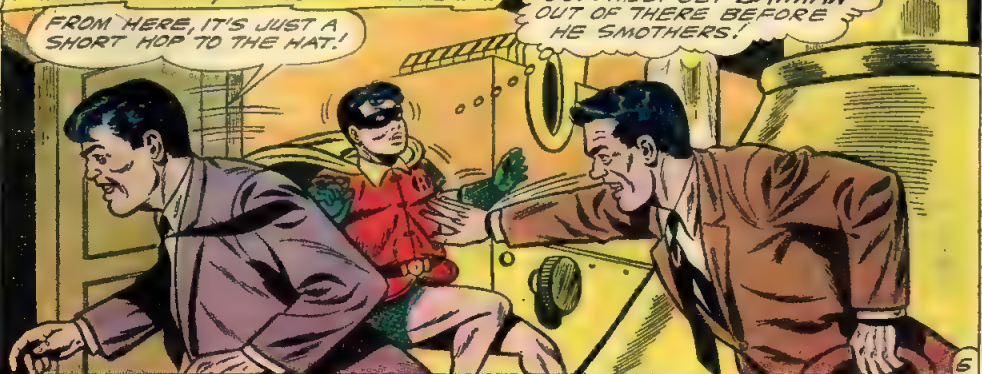
... AND SECONDS LATER, THE FLEEING CROOKS ARE SENT SPRAWLING TO THE FLOOR...



A WELL-PLACED BULLET SEVERS THE OVERHEAD WIRE, AND...



A MOMENT LATER, AS ROBIN RACES IN...





BATMAN



BY THE TIME HE CAN PRY UP THE SPEAKER...

NO SIGN OF THEM... THEY MUST HAVE REACHED THEIR CAR AND SPED AWAY!

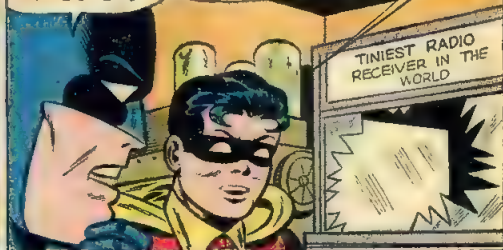
NOTHING MUCH FOR US TO DO NOW-- EXCEPT SEE WHAT THEY WANTED HERE! THEY STOLE SOMETHING IN THE LEFT FRONT SECTION OF THE EXHIBIT... THAT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE!



SHORTLY, AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH...

I WISH I KNEW WHY THEY NEED THAT FOR THE PERFECT CRIME! WHEN THOSE CROOKS GOT AWAY, THE THREAD THAT MIGHT HAVE LED US TO THE UNKNOWN KILLER SNAPPED! NOW WE HAVE NOTHING TO GO BY!

HMM... WHEN THEY BOWLED ME OVER, ONE OF THEM SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A HAT NEAR HERE!



A HAT? THAT MAKES SENSE, TOGETHER WITH A FRAGMENT OF THOSE THOUGHTS I RECEIVED! QUICK-- FOLLOW ME!



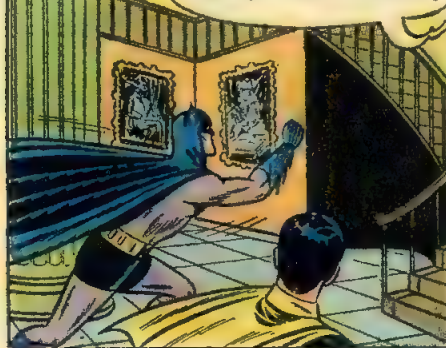
ONCE MORE, THE BATMOBILE ROARS THROUGH CITY STREETS, UNTIL...

REMEMBER-- THAT THOUGHT WAVE SAID, "THEN TO MAYOR!" IT MUST HAVE BEEN "THEN TO MAYOR'S." THE NEW CITY HALL HAS BEEN NICKNAMED THE TOP HAT... YOU CAN SEE WHY!



MINUTES LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RACE IN...

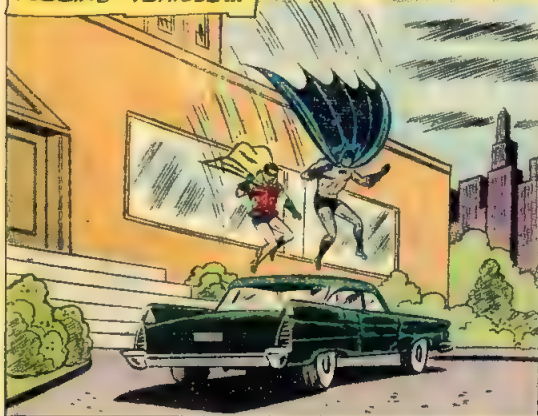
UP HERE, BATMAN! THE MAYOR'S OFFICE!



IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE GOT HERE! I SAW THOSE CROOKS COME IN, AND THEY PUSHED ME ASIDE! I RE-ENTERED WHEN THEY LEFT, AND I'M SURE THEY DIDN'T TAKE A THING! BUT--LOOK OUTSIDE... THEIR GETAWAY CAR IS PASSING BELOW!



A DARING LEAP BRINGS THE DUO DOWN ON THE FLEEING VEHICLE... BUT, INSIDE...



LUCKY, WE HAD THE CAR GIMMICKED UP! THIS LEVER WILL FLOOD THE EXHAUST WITH SPECIAL CHEMICALS, WHILE WE PUT ON GAS MASKS AND GET AWAY...



BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL BE HELPLESSLY BLINDED BY THAT SMOKE FOR A FEW MINUTES!

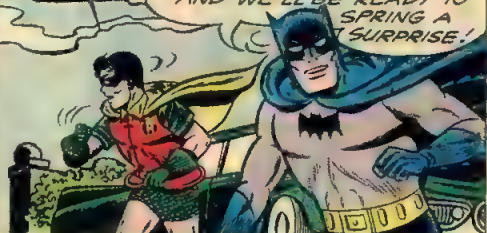
CAN'T COUGH-
COUGH, SEE...



PRESENTLY, WHEN THE THICK FUMES HAVE DISAPPEARED...

I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF OUR HOPES!

ON THE CONTRARY! I KNOW EXACTLY WHO THE WOULD-BE MURDERER IS, THE IDENTITY OF HIS VICTIM, AND THE METHOD HE PLANS TO USE! A FEW WORDS WITH THE MAYOR, AND WE'LL BE READY TO SPRING A SURPRISE!



LATER, AT THE JAHARIAN EMBASSY, A SOLEMN CEREMONY OCCURS...

IN HONOR OF YOUR VISIT, I HEREBY PRESENT YOU WITH THE KEY TO OUR CITY, RAJAH! AND NOW AMBASSADOR PLETHI, WILL YOU COME HERE, PLEASE?



IN DEEP GRATITUDE FOR YOUR EXCELLENT WORK AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE, THE RAJAH WISHES TO TRANSFER THIS TO YOU, HIS LOYAL AND OBEIENT SERVANT! HE SENT ME A NOTE THIS MORNING, REQUESTING THAT I CONFER THIS HONOR ON YOU!

M-ME?



FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, THE AMBASSADOR LOOKS WILDLY ABOUT, AND THEN...

I... I CAN'T STAY! IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT... STATE BUSINESS!

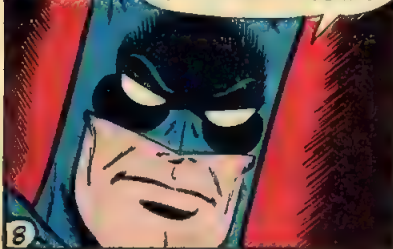
I'LL STATE YOUR BUSINESS-- MURDER! THERE'S A TINY RADIO RECEIVER IN THAT KEY, WHICH YOU HAD CONNECTED TO A POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE! ANY MINUTE NOW, ONE OF YOUR MEN WILL TRANSMIT AN IMPULSE INTENDED TO DETONATE IT AND BLOW THE RAJAH TO SMITHEREENS!



HIS HIRELINGS STOLE THE RECEIVER, PUT IT AND THE EXPLOSIVE IN A REPLICA OF THE KEY, AND SUBSTITUTED IT FOR THE REAL ONE! I GUESSED THE VICTIM AND METHOD WHEN I NOTICED THE KEY IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE!

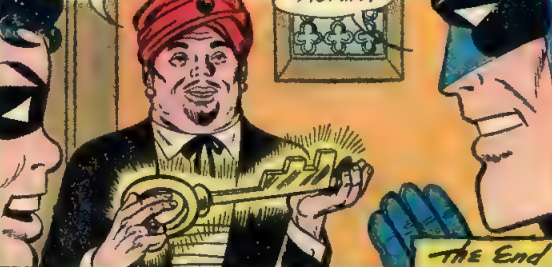


WHEN I REALIZED THE RAJAH WAS TO BE THE VICTIM, I KNEW THE KILLER HAD TO BE ONE OF HIS SUBJECTS, FOR "RID OF... ER" COULD ONLY MEAN "RID OF OUR LEADER." PLETHI HAD ARRANGED IN ADVANCE THAT THE KEY WOULD BE CONFERRED AT THREE O'CLOCK!

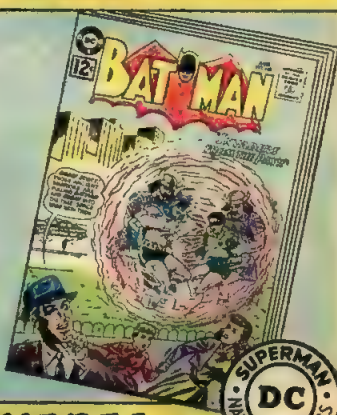
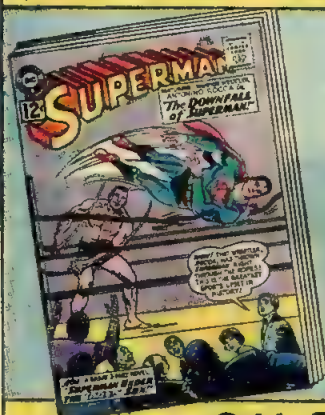


LATER, AFTER THE AMBASSADOR HAS REVEALED THE WHEREABOUTS OF HIS ACCOMPLICES TO POLICE...

I THINK YOU'D BETTER KEEP IT, YOU... TAKE... THIS! THANK... YOU!



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Kindly rush the Chet Atkins Method to me. If not completely satisfied I may return course to you for full refund.

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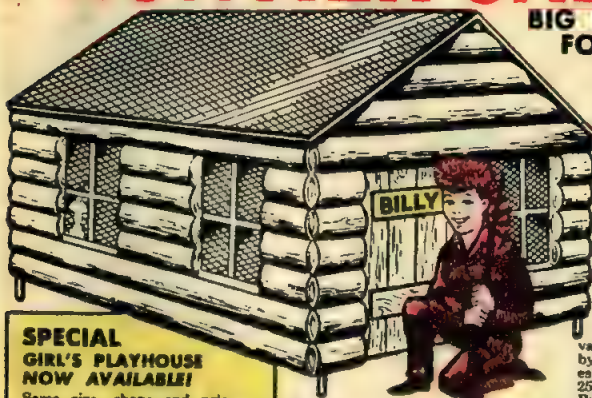
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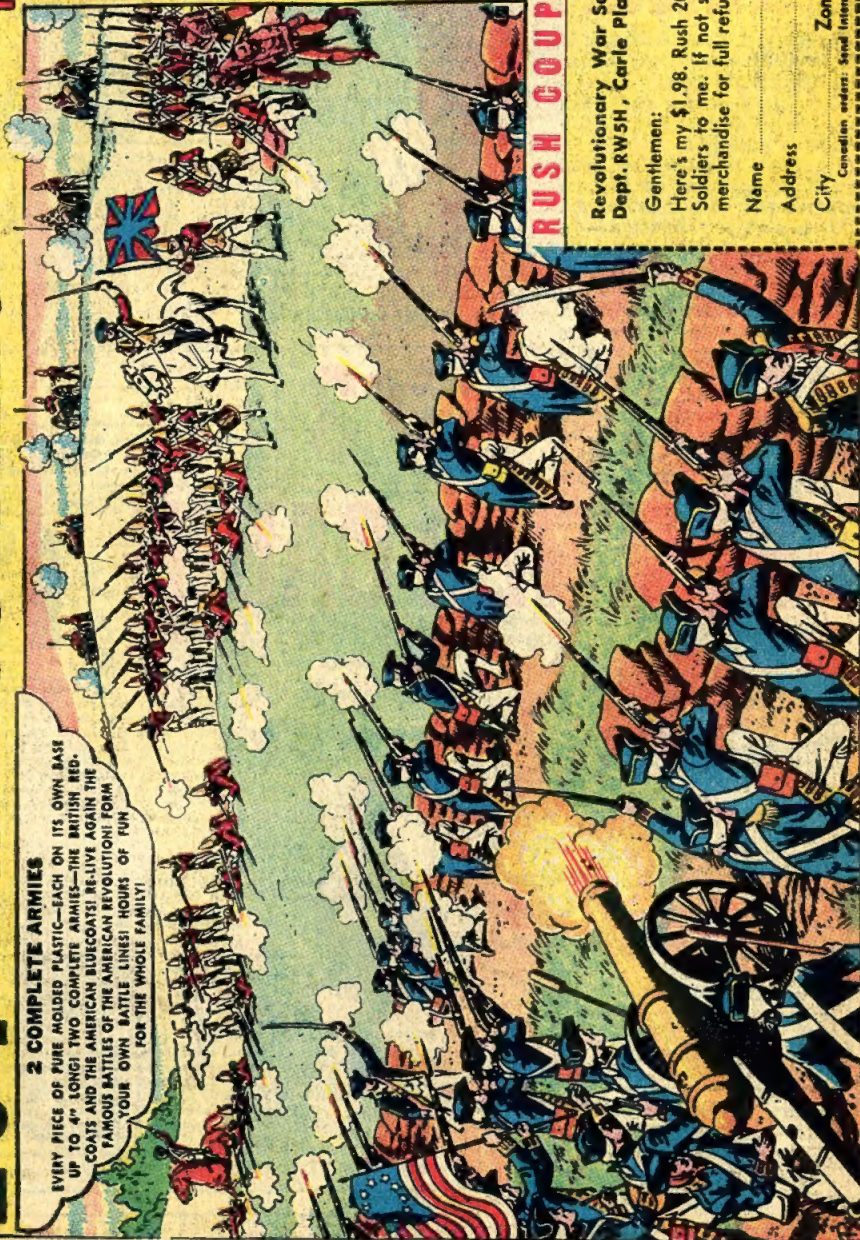
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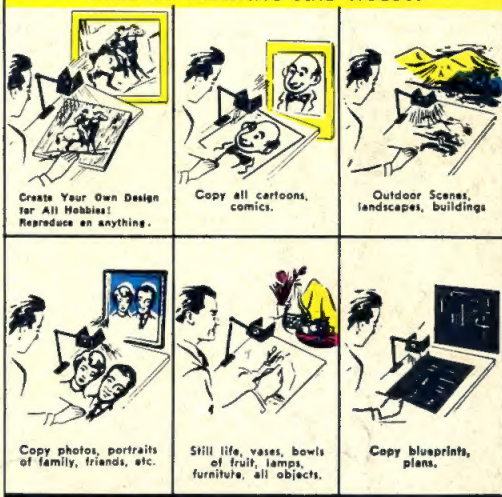
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